



## First meeting regarding Centre's initiative for establishing a "Network"

Representatives of 17 civil society organisations (CSO's) met at the Centre for Civil-Military Relations on Tuesday, September 18, where they attended the first meeting, held over the Centre's initiative for establishing a network of CSO's and individuals interested in security issues. When considering which topics should be addressed by the "Network", representatives of CSO singled out: National Security Strategy, monitoring of state institutions, issue of military service and conscientious objection, as well as the rights of victims of crime. It was agreed that, until the next meeting, CSO's should consider which security related issues they perceive as interesting, and where exactly do they see their participation as possible.

Representatives of following organisations were present at the meeting: *Centre for Free elections and democracy (CeSID), Women in Black, European Movement in Serbia, Atlantic Council of Serbia, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Forum for Ethnic Relations, EBCO (European Bureau for Conscientious Objection) Balkan, George Marshall Alumni Association in Serbia, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, Centre for Research of Ethnicity, Centre for Security Studies, ISAC (International and Security Affairs) Fund, Bibija-Roma Women's Centre, Society for Victimology of Serbia, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia and ASTRA (Anti-trafficking Action).*

Launching the „Network” comes as a part of the one-year project “Communicating Security: Increasing Citizen's Participation in Security Politics”. Overall goal of the *Communicating Security* project is to increase the participation of civil society and citizens in the policy-making process regarding national and local security in Serbia. On the other side, “Network” is imagined to act as a pressure group for oversight of security sector reform as well to become an educated constituency in this process. Centre for Civil-Military Relations started the implementation of this project in June 2007 by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Next meeting of the „Network” is to be held in October. “Network” stays open for all CSO's and individuals interested in security issues understood in the widest sense of the word. For any other information of the future activities of the „Network” and the possibility to register in the Directory, you can speak to Zorana Atanasović, Network Coordinator, available at [zorana@ccmr-bg.org](mailto:zorana@ccmr-bg.org) or +381 11 3287 226 (phone).

*Marko Savković*